

Child Protective Services Involvement with Trenay Duchane

A.R.S. §8-807 requires that the Department of Economic Security maintain the confidentiality of Child Protective Services information, in accordance with federal laws and regulations. The statute also defines exceptions to this confidentiality provision. A.R.S. §8-807 F (2) states that, upon request, DES “shall provide summary information regarding a fatality or near fatality caused by abuse or neglect.” However, A.R.S. §8-807 J cautions that “the Department is not required by this section to disclose CPS information if the disclosure would compromise the integrity of a child protective services or criminal investigation.”

In order to fulfill its obligations under A.R.S. §8-807 F (2) and J, the Department produces the basic facts and summary information on child fatalities resulting from abuse or neglect. These summaries are then sent to the prosecuting agency to determine whether the release of the summary will compromise the criminal case. The Department will release the summary if the prosecuting agency determines that its release will not compromise the criminal case.

DES compiled this summary in accordance with A.R.S. 80807 F(2). In accordance with A.R.S. 8-807 J, the Department sent the summary to the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office and the Phoenix Police Department with a request to review the information and inform the Department if the release of the information would jeopardize their respective cases. On November 28, 2007, the Department received confirmation from the agencies that the release of the information would not impact the on-going law enforcement cases, and the summary was subsequently released to all requesting media organizations.

Death of Trenay Duchane Reported to CPS

A report was made to the Child Protective Services (CPS) Hotline on November 10, 2007 at 6:56 p.m., indicating that Trenay Duchane, 12, was deceased and that her 9-year-old sibling was injured, requiring hospitalization.

The current open CPS case surrounding Jeffery Duchane and Reiko Troupe involving the death of Trenay and child abuse continues to be jointly investigated by CPS and the Phoenix Police Department. The biological child of Jeffery Duchane and Reiko Troupe is in CPS custody and is currently placed in a foster home. Trenay’s 9-year-old sister remains in protective custody.

Prior to the November 10, 2007 report, CPS had received no allegations involving the abuse or neglect of any child by Jeffrey Duchane and had received one report with neglect allegations involving Reiko Troupe and her infant child.

One Prior CPS Case Involving Reiko Troupe and her infant child

CPS investigated a neglect report containing allegations of a substance exposed newborn involving Reiko Troupe in June 2006. While investigating this report, the CPS investigator interviewed Ms. Troupe at the hospital where she had given birth. Ms. Troupe admitted to CPS staff that she used methamphetamines early in her pregnancy and marijuana during the first month of pregnancy. She also told the investigator that Jeffery Duchane did not know she used

drugs, and that he did not use illegal substances. During the investigation, the biological father of the baby, Mr. Duchane, was also interviewed.

CPS staff conducted a home visit on June 14, 2006, and completed an assessment of the parents' capacity to care for the newborn child. Based on the assessment and Ms. Troupe's agreement to participate voluntarily in services, in-home voluntary services were recommended. Mr. Duchane and an additional person agreed to be safety monitors and to work with CPS staff to support the case plan for Ms. Troupe and the newborn. A safety plan was implemented after the interview of Ms. Troupe, Mr. Duchane, and the other individual who agreed to be a safety monitor.

As part of the investigation of the June 2006 report, a review of CPS records indicated that Mr. Duchane had no prior reports for abuse or neglect of a child. CPS records indicated that Mr. Duchane's rights to a child he fathered with another woman had been terminated due to his lack of involvement in that child's life.¹

A referral for in-home services and other treatment services was completed on June 19, 2006.

Summary of Contacts with Community-Based, Voluntary In-Home Services Provider as a Result of June 2006 Report

NOTE: The following is a summary of the contacts and observations made by a community-based provider of voluntary, in-home services working with Jeffrey Duchane and Reiko Troupe in support of the case plan involving their newborn child in June 2006. Contracted in-home services providers engage families in services to support their case plan, document the family's participation in services and conduct home visits. During home visits, providers are expected to observe all of the children in the home while in the care of the parents; any concerns about the safety or well-being of the children in the home must be reported to CPS for assessment and investigation.

The in-home provider contacted the family on June 21 and 22, 2006 and developed a case plan that was agreed to by the parents. The in-home provider documented on both visits that the newborn was being well-cared for. Additional assessments were conducted by other providers on July 13, 2006, and a service plan was agreed to by Ms. Troupe.

On August 1, 2006, the in-home service provider conducted a home visit. This was the first indication that Trenay and her sister were present in the home. Ms. Troupe indicated that the children had been brought to Mr. Duchane by their mother on this and several other occasions to be cared for. There were no documented concerns by the provider regarding any of the children. Both parents continued to participate in the case plan.

On August 3, 2006 a home visit was conducted by the in-home service provider. The provider documented that the children appeared to have good interaction with the stepmother, and there were no documented concerns by the provider regarding any of the children.

¹ This case involved allegations of neglect by the child's mother. During CPS' work on the case, repeated efforts were made to locate Mr. Duchane; however, he was never located.

At the suggestion of the in-home services provider, Ms. Troupe made a call to the Hotline and provided information that Trenay and her sister were in her home in the care of their biological father and that they were fine.

On August 8, 2006, another home visit was conducted by the in-home service provider. The provider documented that there had been a domestic dispute between Mr. Duchane and Ms. Troupe. Ms. Troupe requested that she and the infant be provided with temporary housing. Ms. Troupe reported being pushed by Mr. Duchane on this day, however, she denied any prior domestic disputes. Ms. Troupe requested assistance with transportation to a temporary residence she had arranged.

On August 11, 2006, Ms. Troupe contacted the in-home worker and informed the worker that she had visited with Mr. Duchane and had decided to return to the home. A home visit was conducted by the in-home service provider the same day. The service provider observed all the children and there were no documented concerns by the provider regarding any of the children.

On August 17, 2006, the in-home service provider and investigator reviewed the current status of the case. The in-home service provider would continue to work on the case and provide services to Ms. Troupe. The same day, the in-home provider conducted another home visit and found no one home. The provider left a note instructing Ms. Troupe to contact her and that another home visit would occur on August 22, 2006, and August 24, 2006.

On August 22, 2006 the in-home provider made another follow up visit and found no one home. The provider left a card requesting a phone call.

On August 25, 2006, the in-home provider mailed a letter requesting that Ms. Troupe contact staff by August 31, 2006, or the in-home case plan would be closed.

An unannounced visit was conducted on August 29, 2006, by the in-home service provider, but no one was home. A note was left scheduling the next appointment for August 30, 2006, and requested Ms. Troupe contact her if Ms. Troupe would be unable to attend this appointment. At the follow-up visit on August 30, 2006, no one was home. The provider left a note requesting Ms. Troupe contact the provider.

On September 6, 2006, the in-home service provider closed the voluntary in-home services case due to lack of follow-up on the part of Ms. Troupe. A closing notice was sent to the investigative unit.

CPS Follow-up to Closure of Voluntary In-Home Services Case Involving Reiko Troupe and her newborn

On October 4, 2006 the CPS investigator attempted to contact the family to re-engage them in services. The investigator called the telephone numbers available for Ms. Troupe and another relative. All the numbers had been disconnected.

The supervisor and investigator staffed the case and the investigator completed a parent locator request on October 17th 2006. The parent locator service, which conducts a review of state

databases, including child support and other DES services, Arizona Department of Corrections and Maricopa County jails, did not provide any new information that would assist in locating Ms. Troupe.

On October 18, 2006, Ms. Troupe's case was closed because of inability to locate the family.